

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 NIC-01 /102 W

----- 056375

R 061724Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8239

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, PLO, PFOR, AORG, ICFTU

SUBJECT: WCL IS OPPOSED TO ILO OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE PLO

REF: EC BRUSSELS 00822

1. SUMMARY: DURING A FEBRUARY 5 MEETING WITH A GROUP OF
BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES, JEAN BRUCK, GENERAL
SECRETARY OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL),
STATED THAT THE WCL IS OPPOSED TO GRANTING ILO OBSERVER
STATUS TO THE PLO AND, WHILE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE
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OUTCOME, WILL ENDEAVOR TO BLOCK SUCH A MOVE AT THE

UPCOMING MEETING OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY. BRUCK WARNED THAT RECOGNITION OF THE PLO WOULD RESULT IN "POLITICIZING" AND EVENTUALLY DESTROYING THE ILO. END SUMMARY.

2. JEAN BRUCK, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH THE "POLITICIZING" OF THE ILO WHICH HE BELIEVES WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT FROM A GOVERNING BODY DECISION TO GRANT OBSERVER STATUS TO THE PLO. IN OUTLINING THE WCL'S POSITION ON THE PLO QUESTION, BRUCK TOLD A GROUP OF BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES ON FEBRUARY 5 THAT HE PLANS TO CONTACT US, SOVIET AND ARAB DELEGATIONS PRIOR TO THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING TO "FIND SOME WAY TO AVERT CATASTROPHE." HE SAID THAT THE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING THIS ARE SLIM BUT NEVERTHELESS WORTH THE EFFORT.

3. BRUCK HOPES THAT THE WCL'S OPPOSITION TO GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS WILL NOT BE INTERPRETED AS AN ANTI-ARAB ACTION. THE WCL, HE SAID, HAS DENOUNCED THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE PALESTINIANS LIVE AND CONTINUES TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO SEEK A JUST SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. HOWEVER, BRUCK IS CONVINCED THAT IF THE PLO IS GIVEN OBSERVER STATUS, THE ILO WILL DEGENERATE INTO AN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ARENA AND LOSE ITS REASON FOR EXISTING. BRUCK IS ALSO PREOCCUPIED WITH THE "REAL POSSIBILITY" THAT THE US WOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, WHEN COMBINED WITH THE "POLITICIZING" OF THE ILO, WOULD MEAN THE END OF THE ILO AS A LEGITIMATE INSTITUTION.

4. BRUCK TOLD THE ATTACHES THAT THE WCL IS COOPERATING WITH THE ICFTU ON THE PLO ISSUE, BUT THAT THE ICFTU HAS BEEN "INCONSISTENT AND LESS PRAGMATIC" THAN THE WCL IN SEEKING A SOLUTION. HE WOULD NOT EXPAND ON THIS STATEMENT BUT LEFT US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ICFTU MAY HAVE CAVED IN PREMATURELY.

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5. IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE OF THE QUIXOTIC BRUCK ENROUTE TO GENEVA TO CONVERT THE SOVIETS ON THE PLO QUESTION AND BEING MORE PRAGMATIC THAN HIS ICFTU COUNTERPART. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE THIS AND THE FACT THAT THE WCL PACKS RELATIVELY LITTLE CLOUT AT THE ILO, BRUCK HAS BEEN FAR MORE FORCEFUL AND FORTHRIGHT THAN THE ICFTU LEADERS ON THE PLO ISSUE, WHICH SHOULD PERHAPS BE CALLED TO THE US WORKER DELEGATES' ATTENTION

PRIOR TO THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING.GREENWALD

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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To: STATE
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